

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-16 (Canceled)

Claim 17 (Currently Amended) An image forming method comprising steps of:

forming a latent image on a latent image retaining body;

developing the latent image on the latent image retaining body using a liquid developer, the liquid developer comprising an electrically insulating solvent and a plurality of toner particles, each comprising a resin particle non-soluble in the electrically insulating solvent and ~~pigment~~ colorant particles, the toner particles comprising a surface portion and an inside portion, a first density of the ~~pigment~~ colorant particles per unit volume of the resin particle at the surface portion being larger than a second density of the ~~pigment~~ colorant particles per unit volume of the resin particle at the inside portion, and

transferring an image developed on the latent image retaining body to an intermediate transfer body applying a shear pressure to an image developed on the latent image retaining body.

Claim 18 (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the transferring step comprises:

applying a pressure of 0.5 kg/cm^2 to 50 kg/cm^2 from the latent image retaining body to the intermediate transfer body at a transfer station during the transfer step with a surface of the intermediate transfer body at the transfer station moved faster or slower than a moving speed of surface of the latent image retaining body at the transfer station during the transfer step.

Claim 19 (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein a surface speed of the intermediate transfer body at the transfer station ranges from about 80 % to about 99% or from about 101 % to about 120 % of a surface speed of the latent image retaining body at the transfer station.